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Universal Penny Postage.

The announcement that the postage rate between England and the United States has been reduced to two cents a letter recalls the efforts of Elihu Burritt, one of the world's greatest peace workers, for postage reform. Half a century ago, when it cost twenty-four cents to send a letter from England to America, a rate which almost prohibited correspondence between the two countries, Burritt, in the face of ridicule and unbelief, proposed that the rate be reduced to one penny, that is, in American money, two cents. He began his agitation for reduction in Great Britain, making public addresses in the leading cities, from Penzance to Aberdeen, and from Cork to Belfast. Later on he brought the matter home to the legislatures of Maine, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and organized a committee in Boston to take charge of the movement. He spent three months in Washington working with Congress and the national government, and, after preparing a report for the postal committee, which was endorsed by Charles Sumner and Senator Douglas, toured the Southern and Western States, spoke in Canada, returned to England and visited Holland and Prussia in the interest of his cause. As a result of his appeal to public opinion in Great Britain, the British government, beginning in the empire, reduced its postal charges to sixpence a letter to India, Australia and Canada, while it made fourpence the rate to France. In due course of time the rate between America and England, as between practically all countries, was made five cents, first for half an ounce and then for one ounce, and this rate remained in force until October of this year, when it was lowered to the amount named in Burritt's original proposition.

The success of Burritt's plan, though it has been long in coming, and is now only partially realized, for he held up universal penny postage as his ideal, is a reminder that persistent and thorough agitation for any measure that is calculated to benefit humanity is bound in the end to bear its full fruit. The reform in this case, besides being a blessing to the writers of letters by making it possible to send their correspondence more cheaply, will be a benefit to the governments, because experience shows that correspondence grows more than proportionately in volume as the rates of postage are cut down. Better still, the change brings England and America nearer together in quickened relations of business and friendship. Viewed from the standpoint of closer international fellowship, the work begun by Elihu Burritt and consummated by the governments of these two countries is a measure of peace and amity which is destined to increase in significance as it becomes adopted by the entire world, as it is sure to be in a very short time. The increased correspondence that will be the result will

bring about wider international acquaintance, and this wider mutual knowledge will remove prejudices, allay ill-feelings and develop respect and appreciation — the very bases of concord.

Editorial Notes.

Some Recent New Members.

Among the many new accessions to the membership of the American Peace Society received during the months of September and October are the following prominent persons:

President Woodrow Wilson, Ph. D., LL. D., Princeton University, Princeton, N. J.

President William O. Thompson, D. D., LL. D., Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

President Herbert Welch, D. D., LL. D., Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio.

President W. H. S. Demarest, D. D., Rutgers College, New Brunswick, N. J.

President Augustus B. Church, D. D., LL. D., Buchtel College, Akron, O.

President Charles S. Howe, Ph. D., Case School Applied Science, Cleveland, O.

President Henry A. Buttz, D. D., LL. D., Drew Theological Seminary, Madison, N. J.

President Henry C. White, Ph. D., LL. D., Georgia State College.

Governor A. L. Harris of Ohio.

Ex-Governor E. C. Stokes of New Jersey

Judge Alfred Reed, LL. D., Supreme Court, New Jersey.

Judge Francis J. Swayze, LL. D., Supreme Court, New Jersey.

Dr. Dudley A. Sargent, Hemenway Gymnasium, Cambridge, Mass.

Judge Frank T. Lloyd, Camden, N. J.

Judge C. V. D. Joline, Camden, N. J.

Judge Elmer E. Green, Trenton, N. J.

Judge Hiram L. Sibley, LL. D., Columbus, O.

Hon. C. B. Galbreath, State Librarian of Ohio.

Hon. Henry A. Buchanan, State Librarian of New Jersey.

Hon. E. A. Jones, Ph. D., State Commissioner of Education, Ohio.

Dr. C. O. Probst, Secretary State Board of Health, Ohio.

Hon. J. Brognard Betts, Assistant State Superintendent Public Instruction of New Jersey.

Mr. Warren S. Stone, Grand Chief of Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Cleveland, O.

Mr. Dan L. Cease, President Brotherhood of R. R. Trainmen.

Mr. A. E. King, Grand Secretary Brotherhood of R. R. Trainmen.

Mr. Frederick Frelinghuysen, President Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company, Newark, N. J.